Nitsch Engineering
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KEY PLAN

CIRCUIT DRIVE, FRANKLIN PARK, BOSTON, MA

Project:	CIRCUIT DRIVE TRAFFIC & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS	Drawn By:	MCA
Project No.:	16118	Checked By:	JTB
Client Name:	BOSTON PARKS DEPT	Date:	07/28/2025

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KEY PLAN

Don't get rid of red parking capability

Narrow the drive lanes

EXISTING PARKING

- High parking demand during events creates surges in parking usage compared to normal activities
- Conflicts between bicyclists, drivers trying to park, parked cars, and pedestrians walking to park pathways
- Informal parking in shoulder and landscape degrades off-pavement landscape and creates drainage challenges

People use shared use path as Picnic areas

Two lanes Prefered for bikes

Keep auto traffic to 20mph!

Keep bike traffic down to 13mph

Raised x-walks are preferred - People tend to speed up after speed bump

Flex posts don't work

Main example Median island @ Roxbury Crossing

if you need a median, the road is too wide

Informal parking activity during a recent event.

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TRAFFIC CALMING - CROSSWALKS AND SPEED TABLES

- Potential for 5 new crosswalks along Circuit Drive to increase pedestrian safety and park connectivity
- Potential for 10 speed tables, spaced to encourage slower vehicle speeds through the park

SPEED TABLE EXAMPLES FROM OTHER CITIES

SPEED TABLES ARE LONGER THAN THE STANDARD SPEED HUMP (SHOWN BELOW) AND ARE MORE COMFORTABLE FOR LARGE VEHICLES LIKE BUSES.

NEW YORK CITY

NORTHAMPTON, MA

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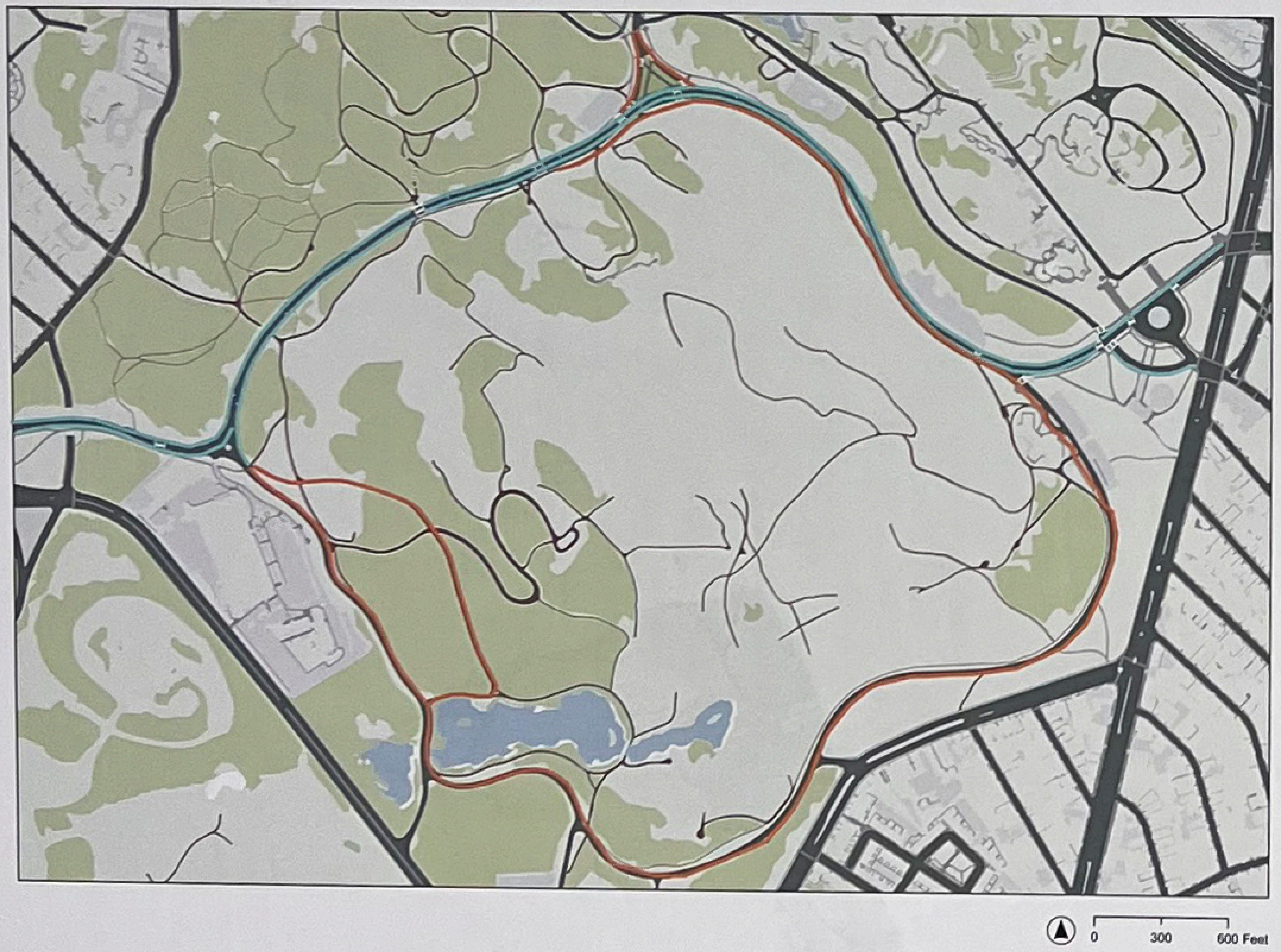
APPROACH 1 – BUFFERED BIKE LANES

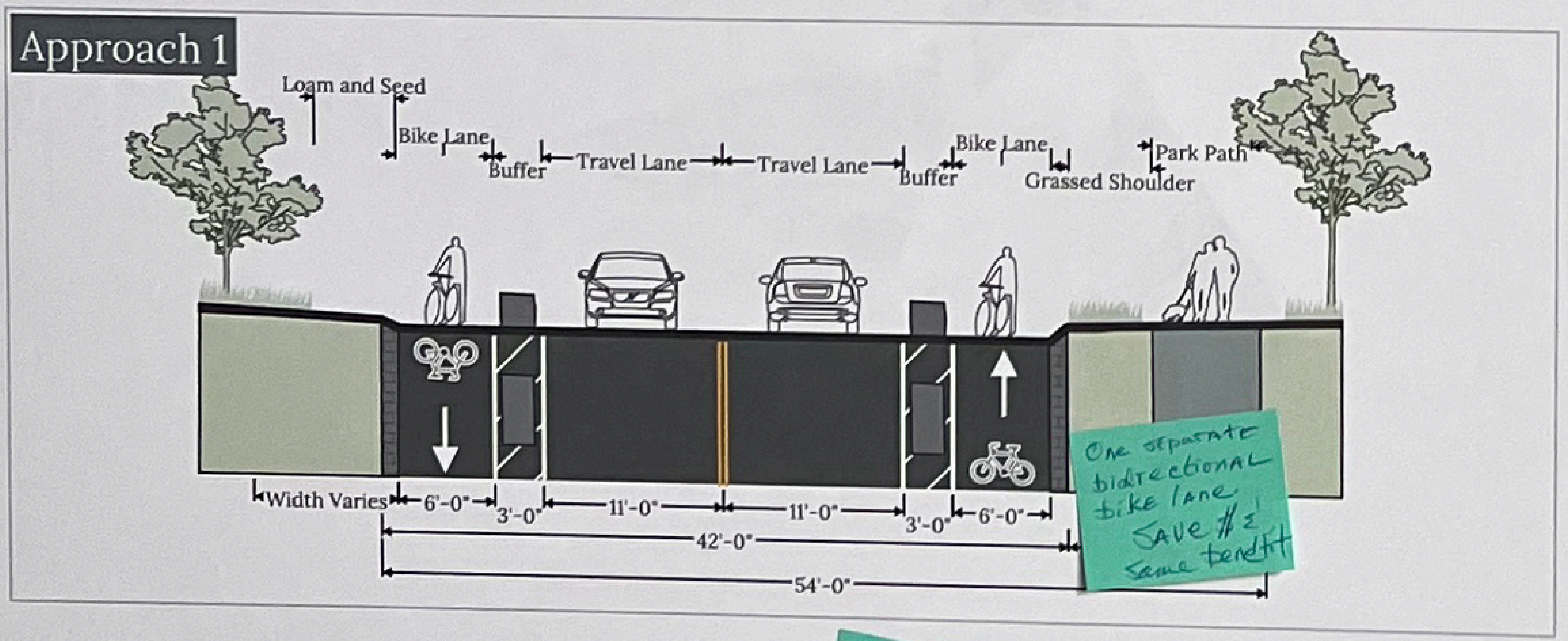
Creates separated, designated, and continuous travel lanes for cyclists to move through the park from one end to another.

BUFFERED BIKES LANES NOW!



POTENTIAL FEATURES
Bicycle Lane
Shared Use Path

EXISTING FEATURES
Shared Use Path
Trail



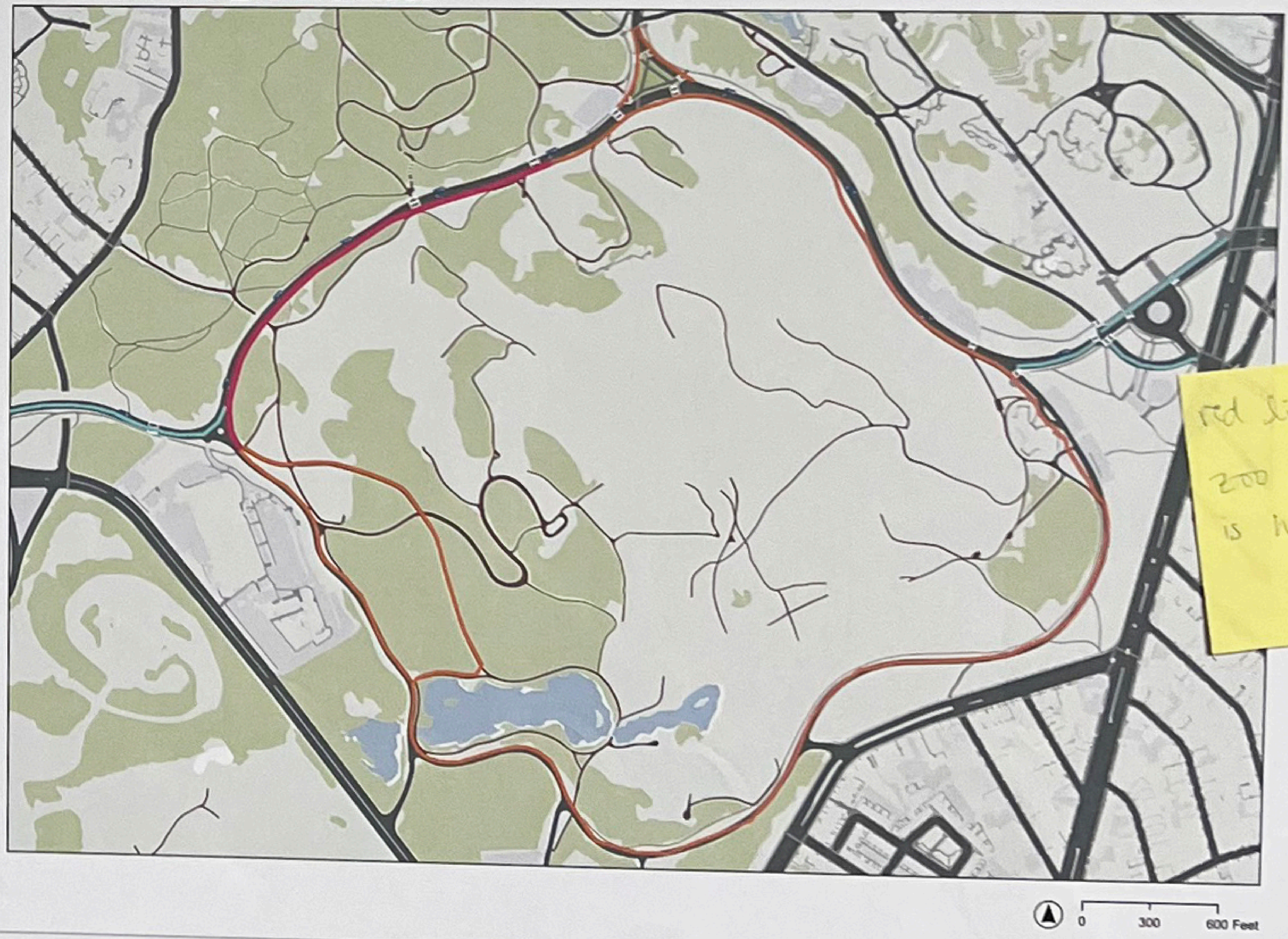
One separate bidirectional bike lane SAVE #2 same benefit

Elma Lewis Playhouse nights – a lot of parking needed

APPROACH 2 – SHARED USE PATH

Completes the Circuit Loop by combining pedestrian and bicyclist use into a single space, while maintaining vehicular traffic along Circuit Drive and accommodating bike through traffic.

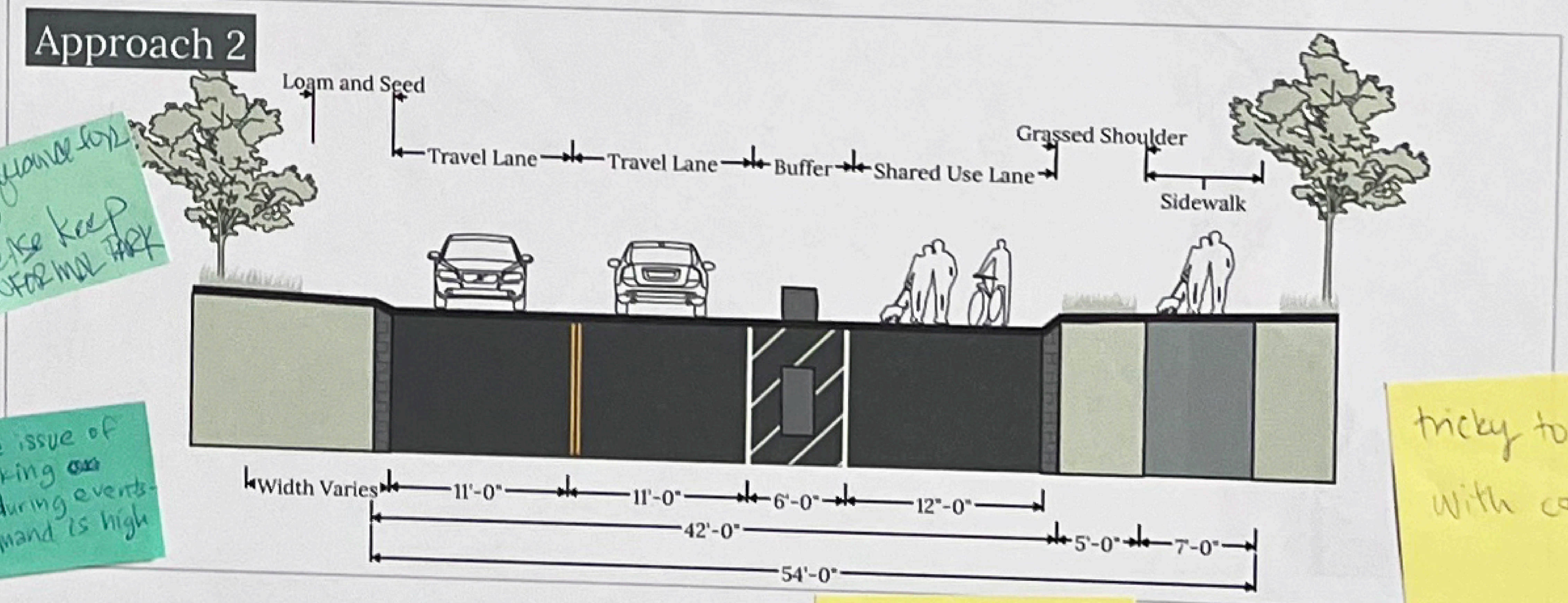
Something/path on the north side



red lights @ zoo crosswalk is helpful

Preference for #2 Please keep INFORMAL PARK

The issue of parking during events – demand is high



tricky to cross with combined

Snow removal? need ~7.5' for protected

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POTENTIAL LOCATIONS OF SHORT-TERM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Drains are clogged and set too high here

0 300 600 Feet

- Locations selected in coordination with transportation upgrades, and drainage upgrades will be constructed simultaneously with transportation work.
- Plant selections made to prioritize continuity with the prevailing landscape character of adjacent park areas.
- Longer term investments for drainage infrastructure would also be required.

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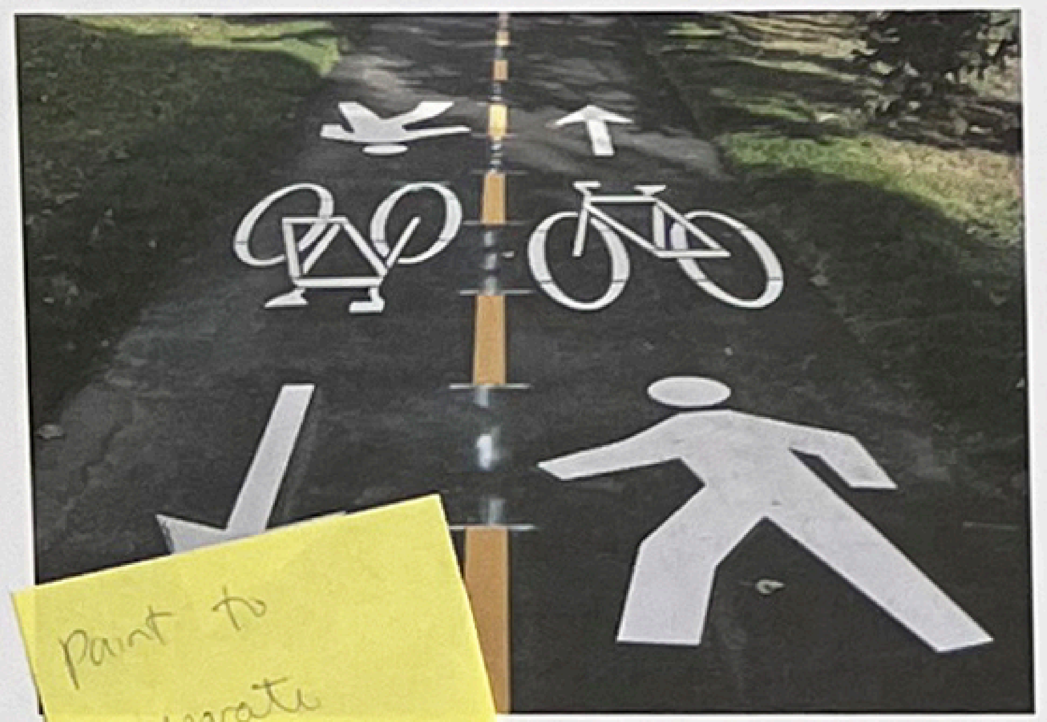
PRECEDENTS

MODE SEPARATION

PAINTED SEPARATION



Paint to separate peds/bikes

Public Garden, Boston

PHYSICAL SEPARATION

Douglass Park, Chicago

Central Park, New York City

Central Park, New York City

physical separation is better

CURB HARDENING AND REINFORCEMENT

Prospect Park, New York City

Boston, MA

Arborway, Boston

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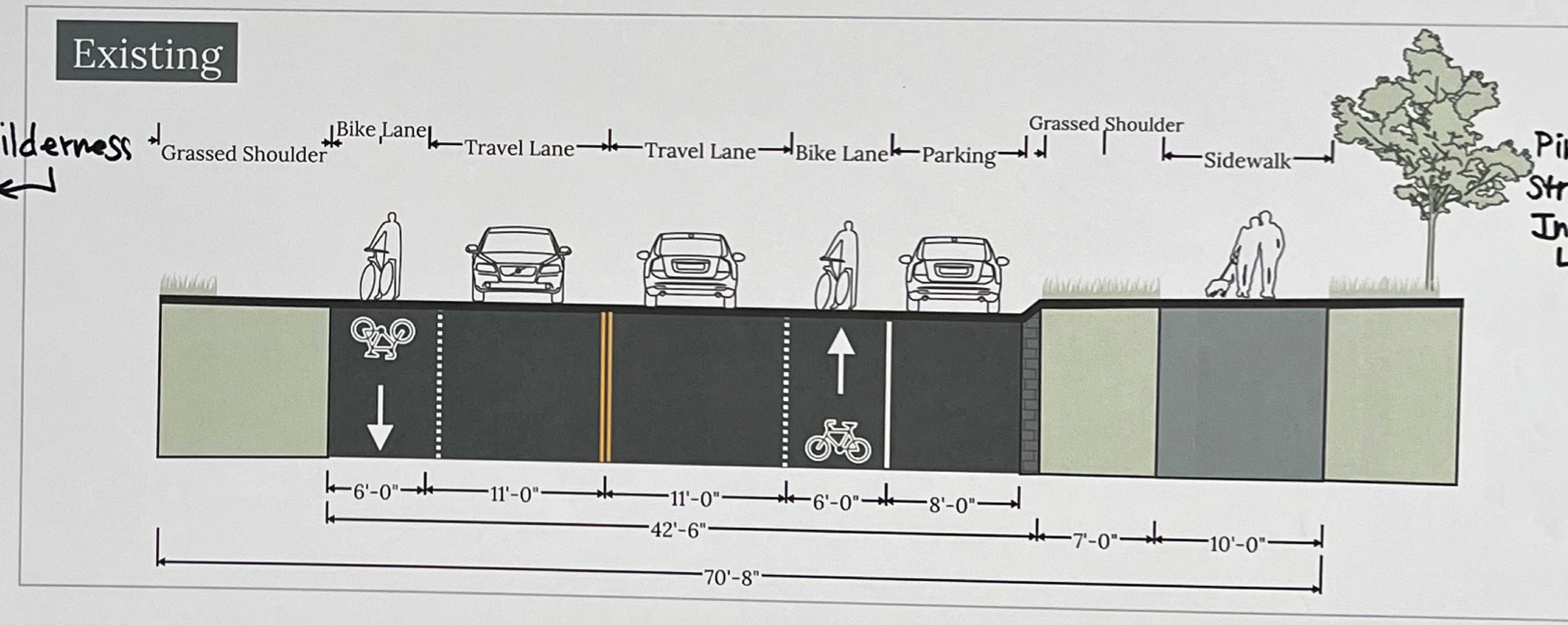
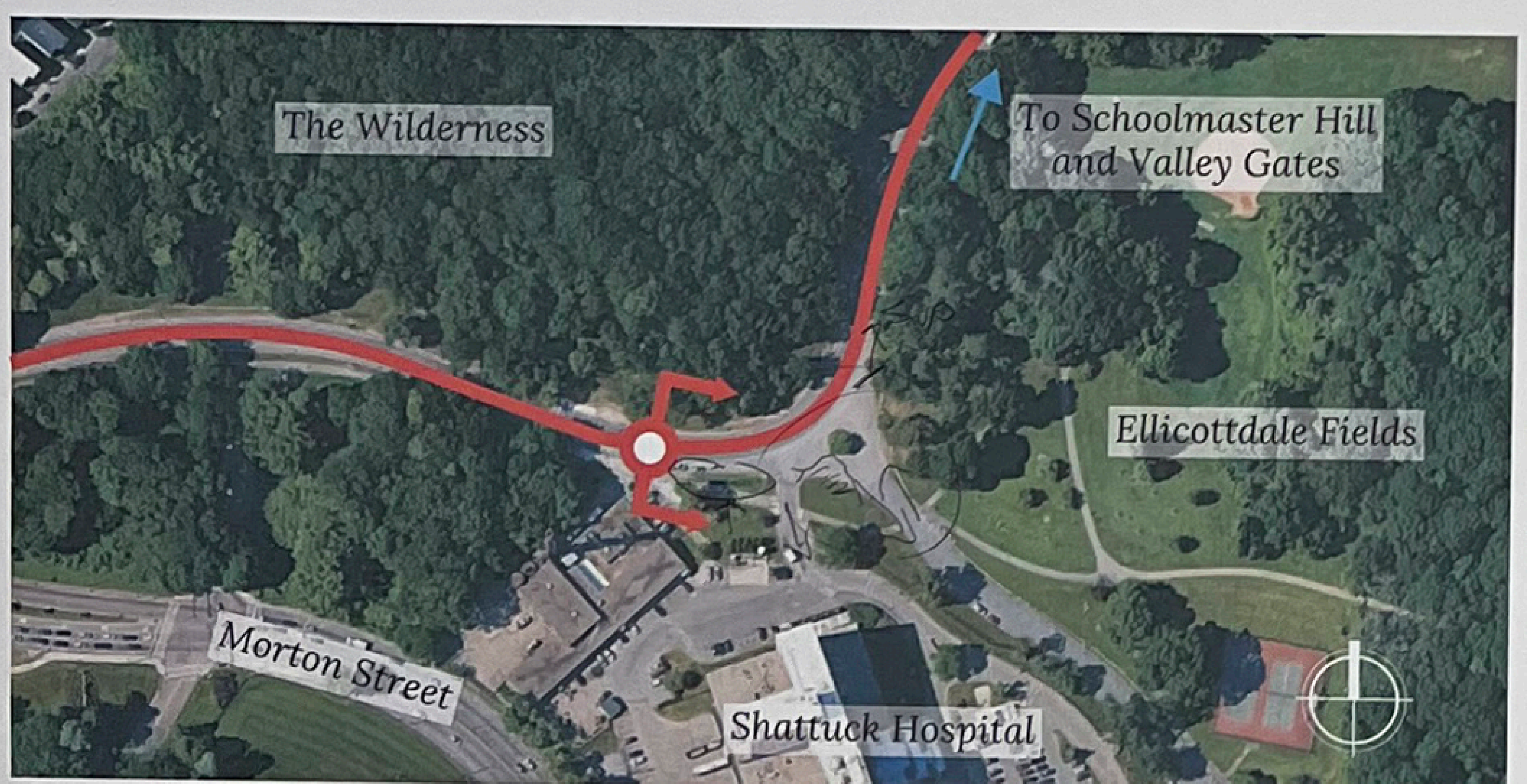
LOCATION 1 - SHATTUCK HOSPITAL

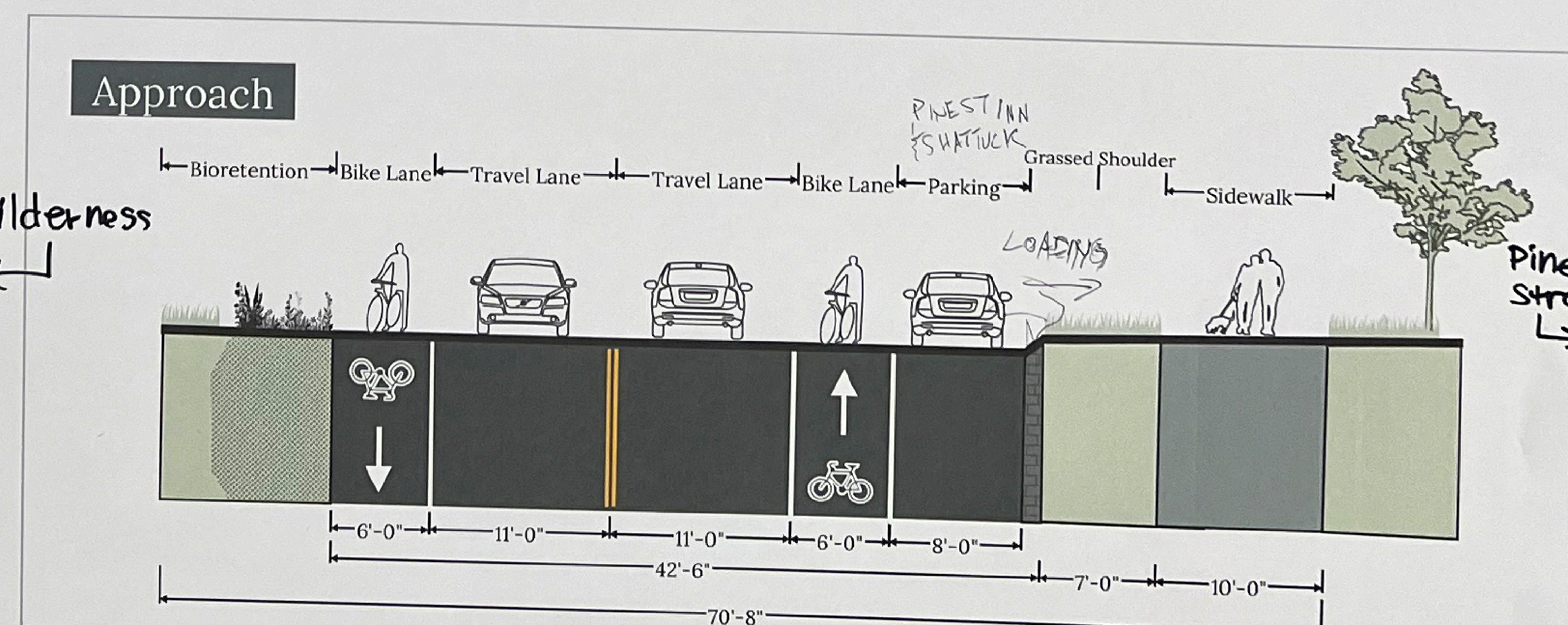
Wilderness



Pine Street Inn



Wilderness



Pine Street

Keeping people on one side helps keep bikers safe from cars encroaching

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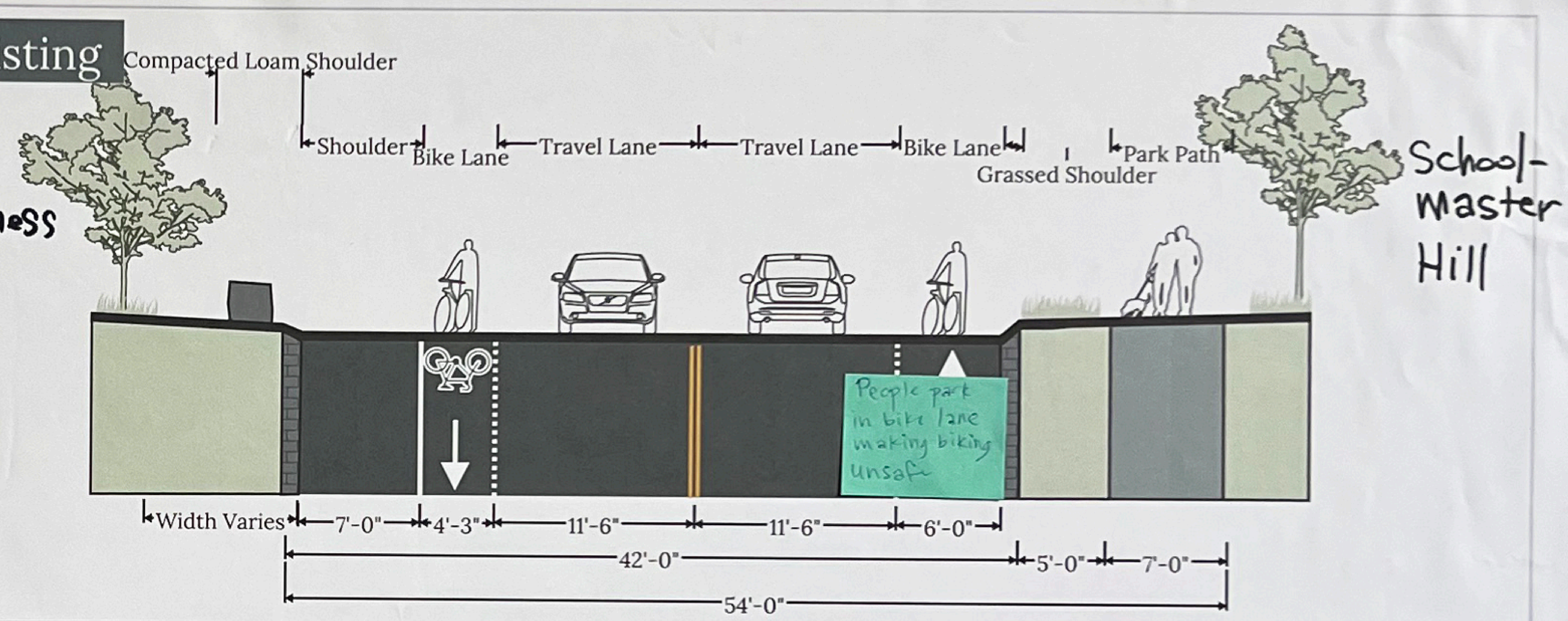
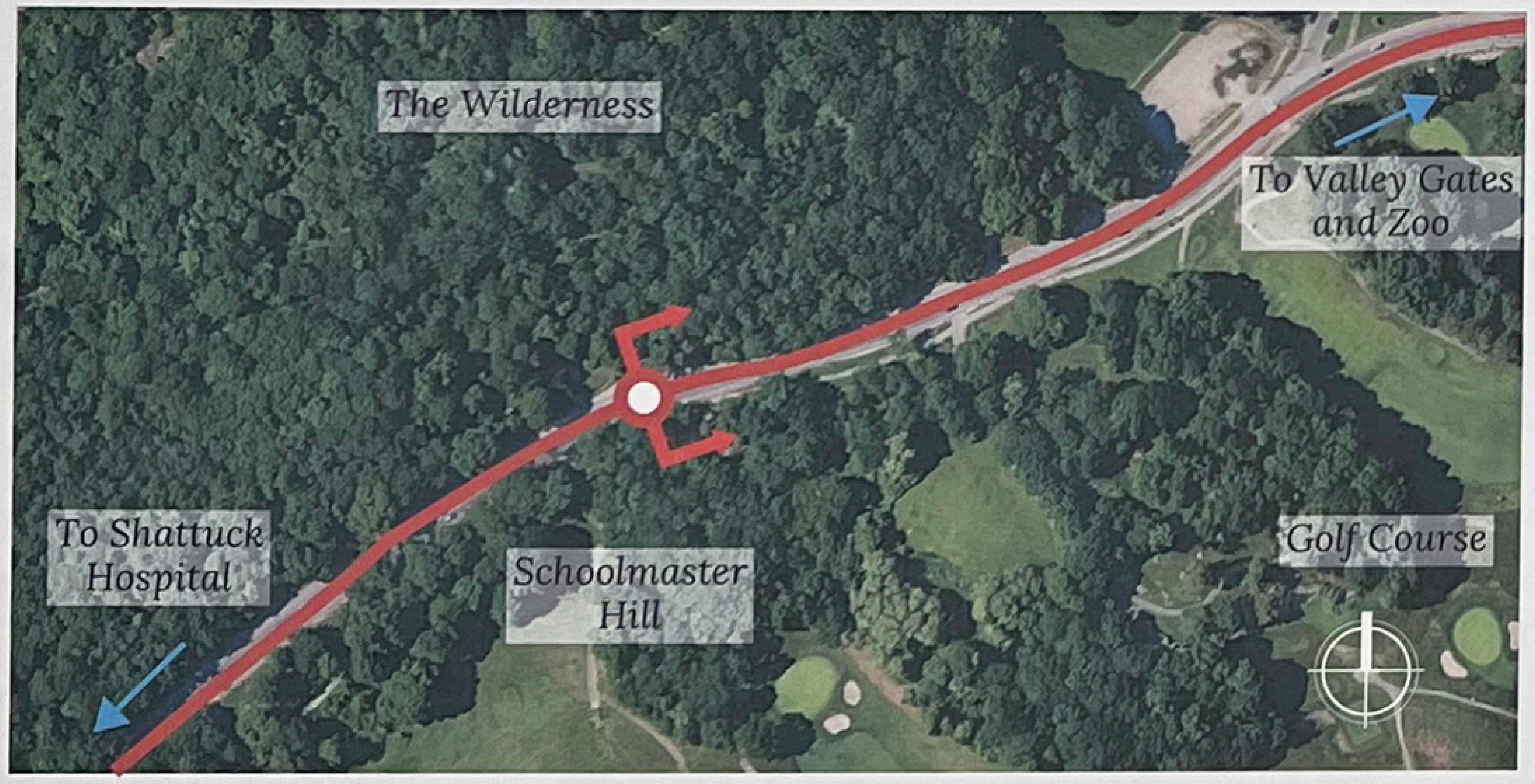
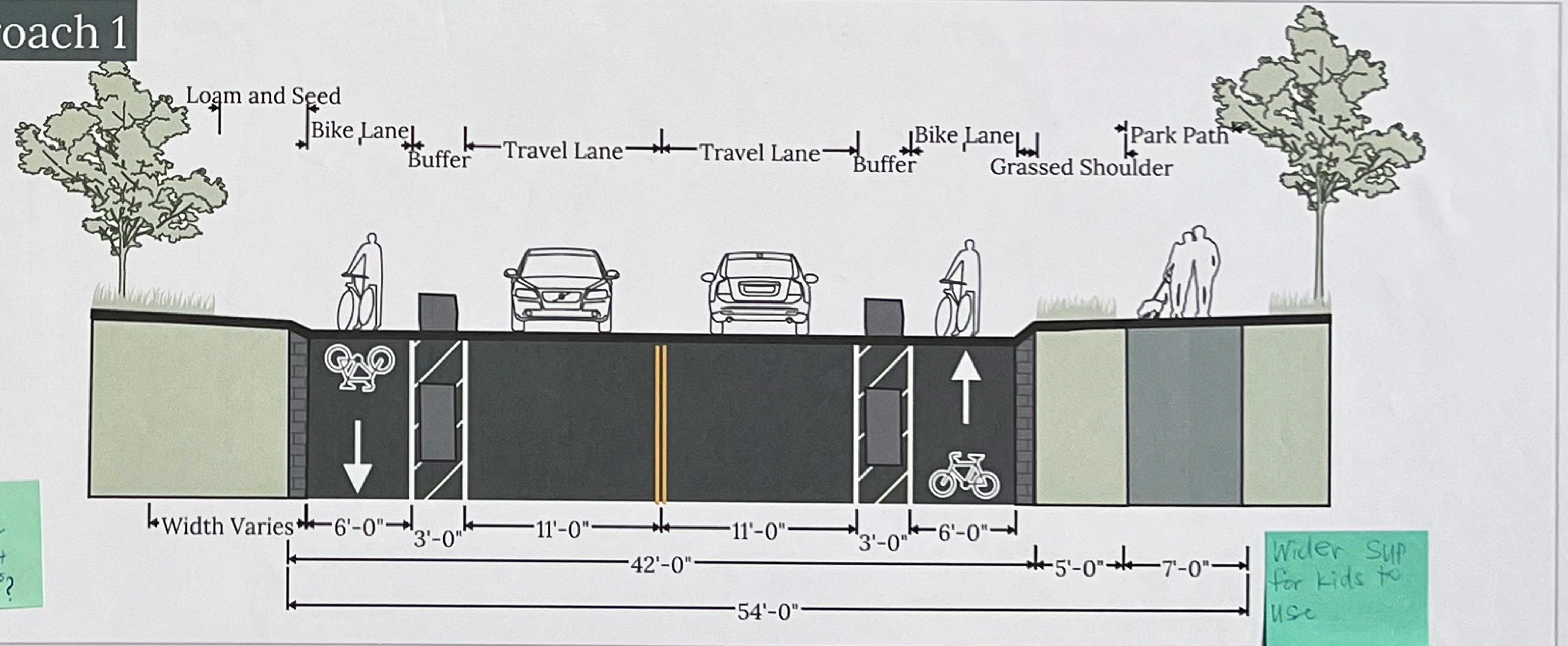
LOCATION 2 - SCHOOLMASTER HILL

Existing





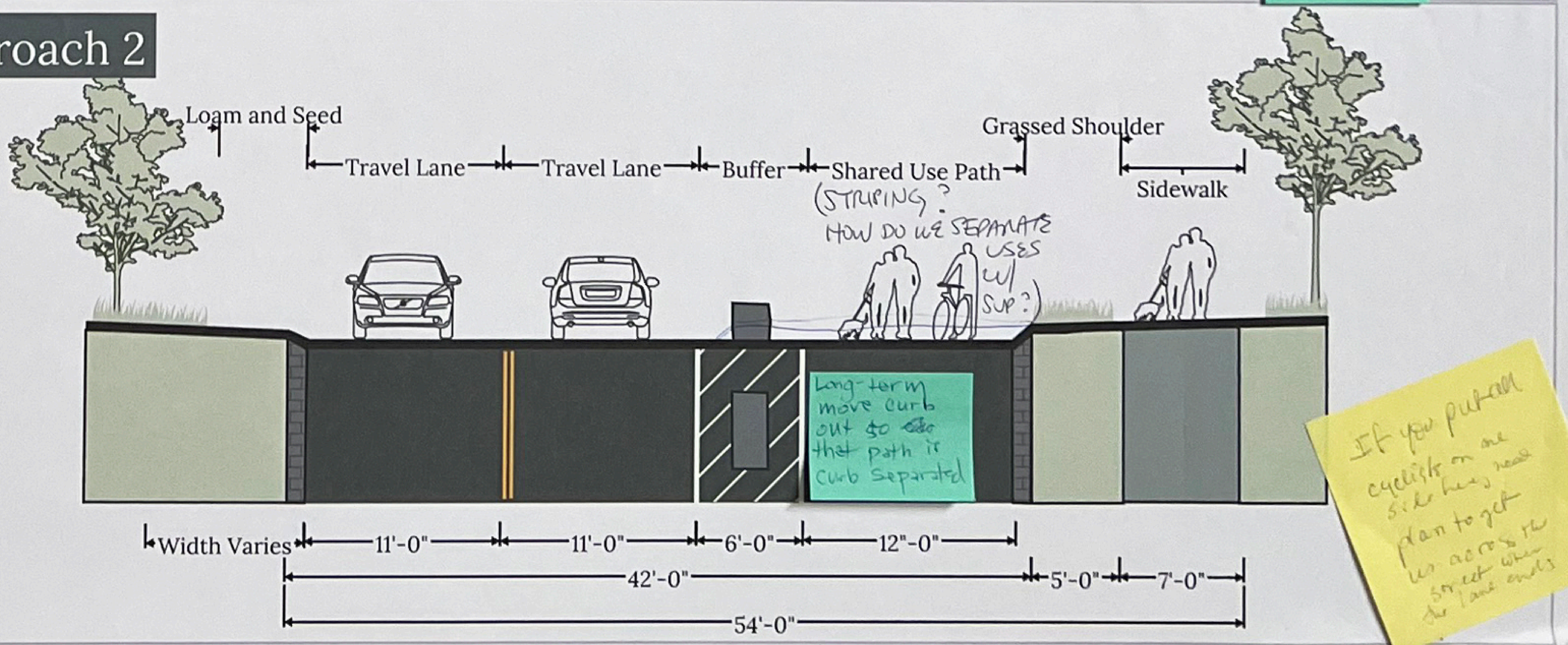
Approach 1



What will be Considered for the cars that already use this spot to park?

Wider SUP for kids to use

Approach 2



cars will end up somewhere, so should plan for that

parking during events is necessary

striping for path would be nice

If you put all cyclists on one side here, need plan to get them across the street when the lane ends

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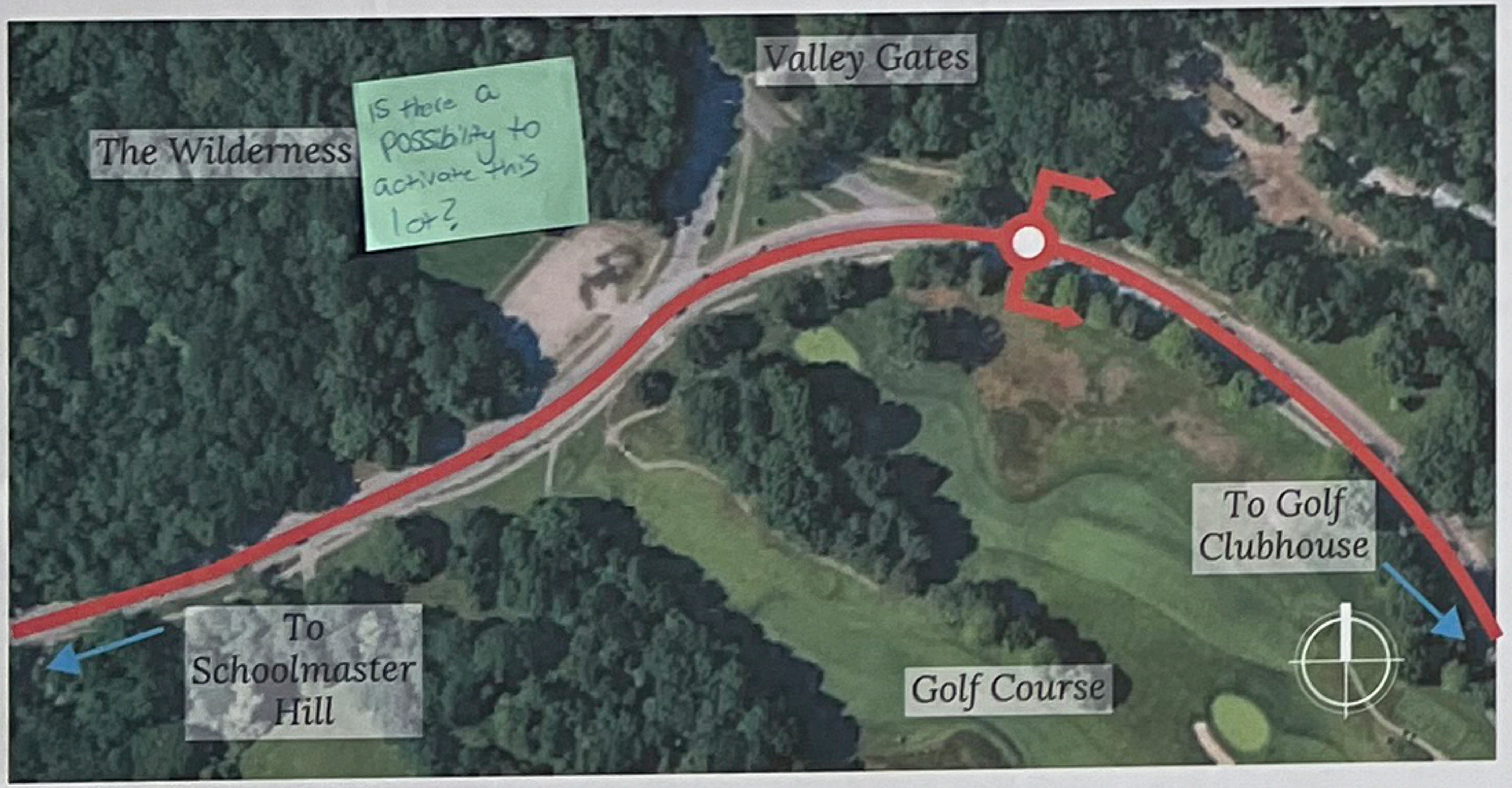
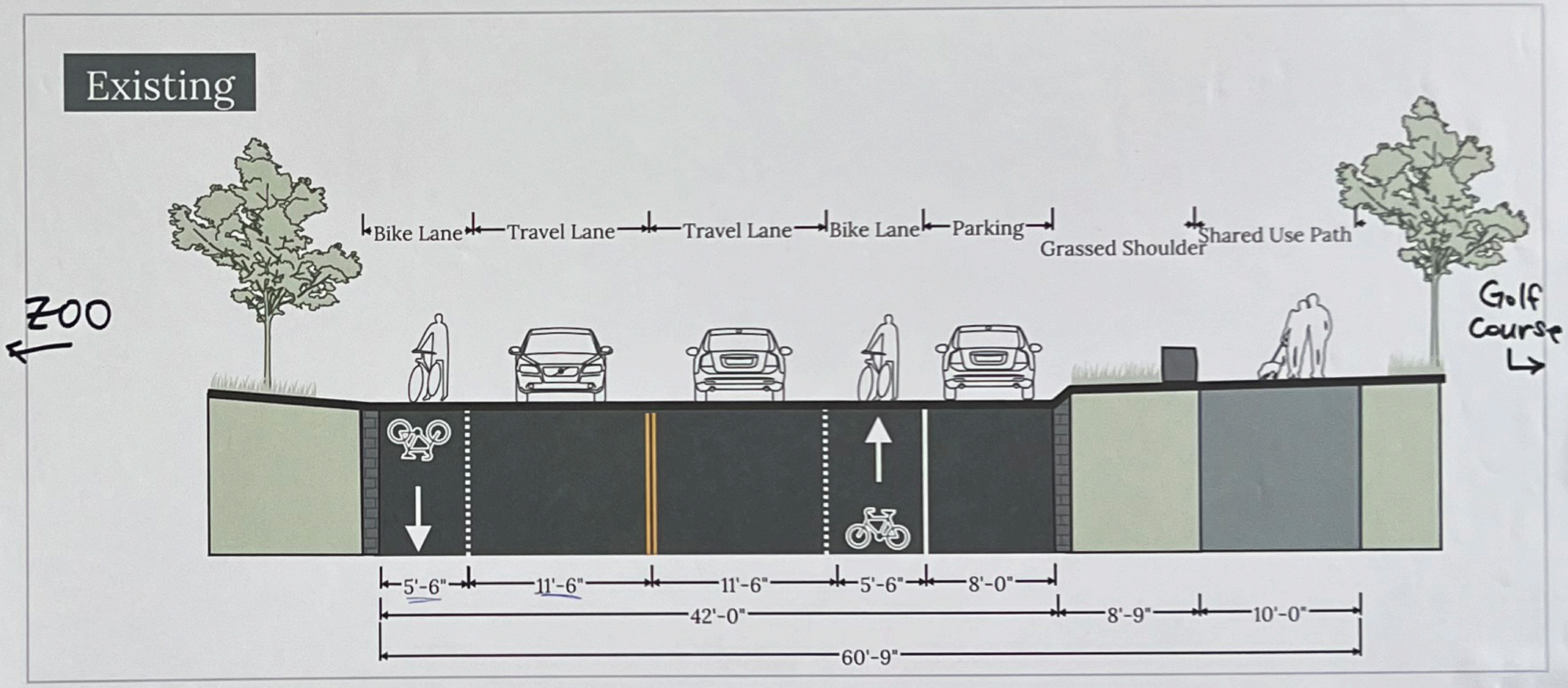
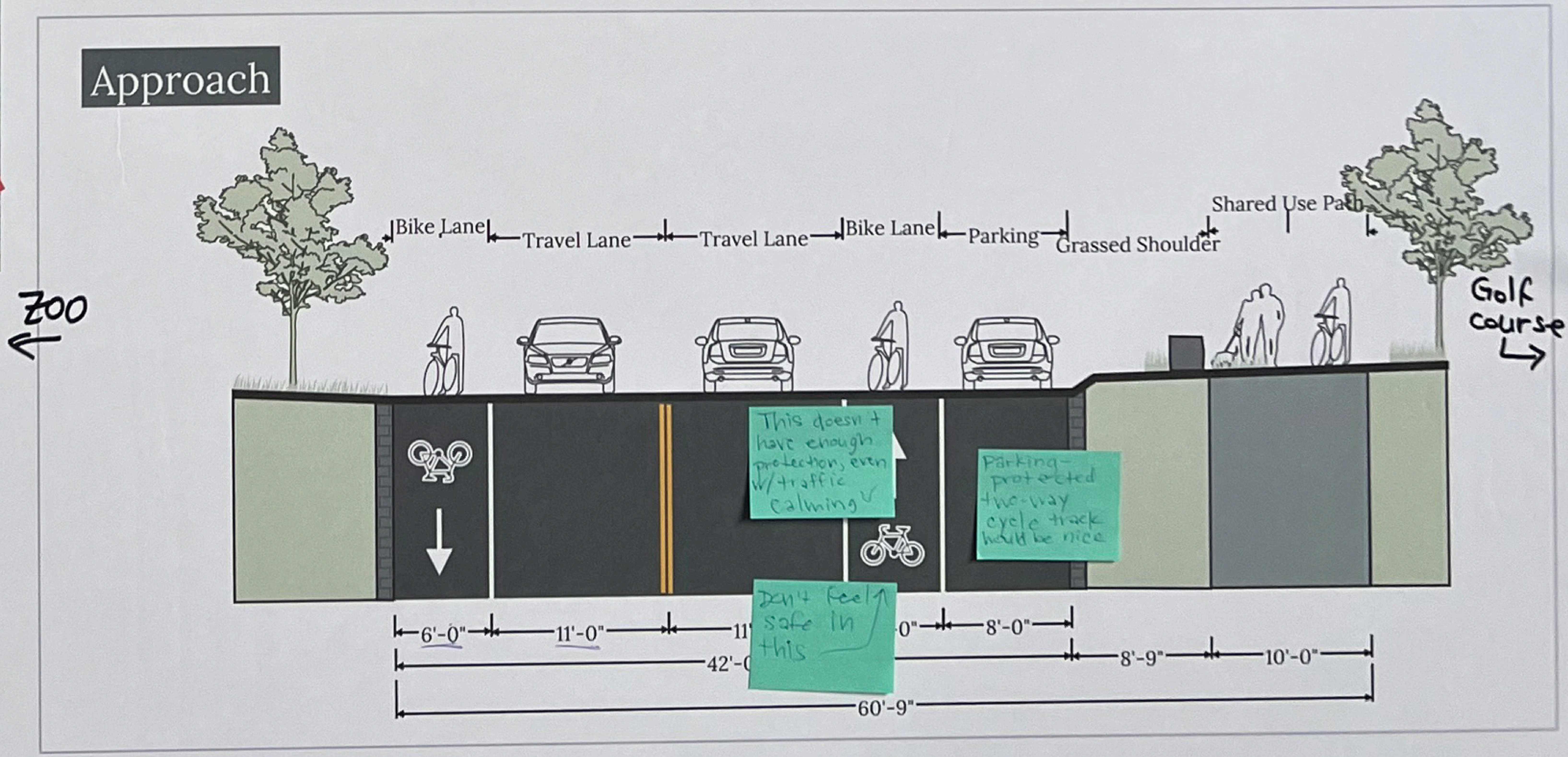
LOCATION 3 - VALLEY GATES

Vans + buses park in lot during events

Most dangerous spot for bicyclists







Narrow lanes at crosswalks? would be okay

Raised crosswalks would be ideal

Parking protected ~~lane~~ bike lane would be nice ✓

how can we protect bike lane during events? ✓

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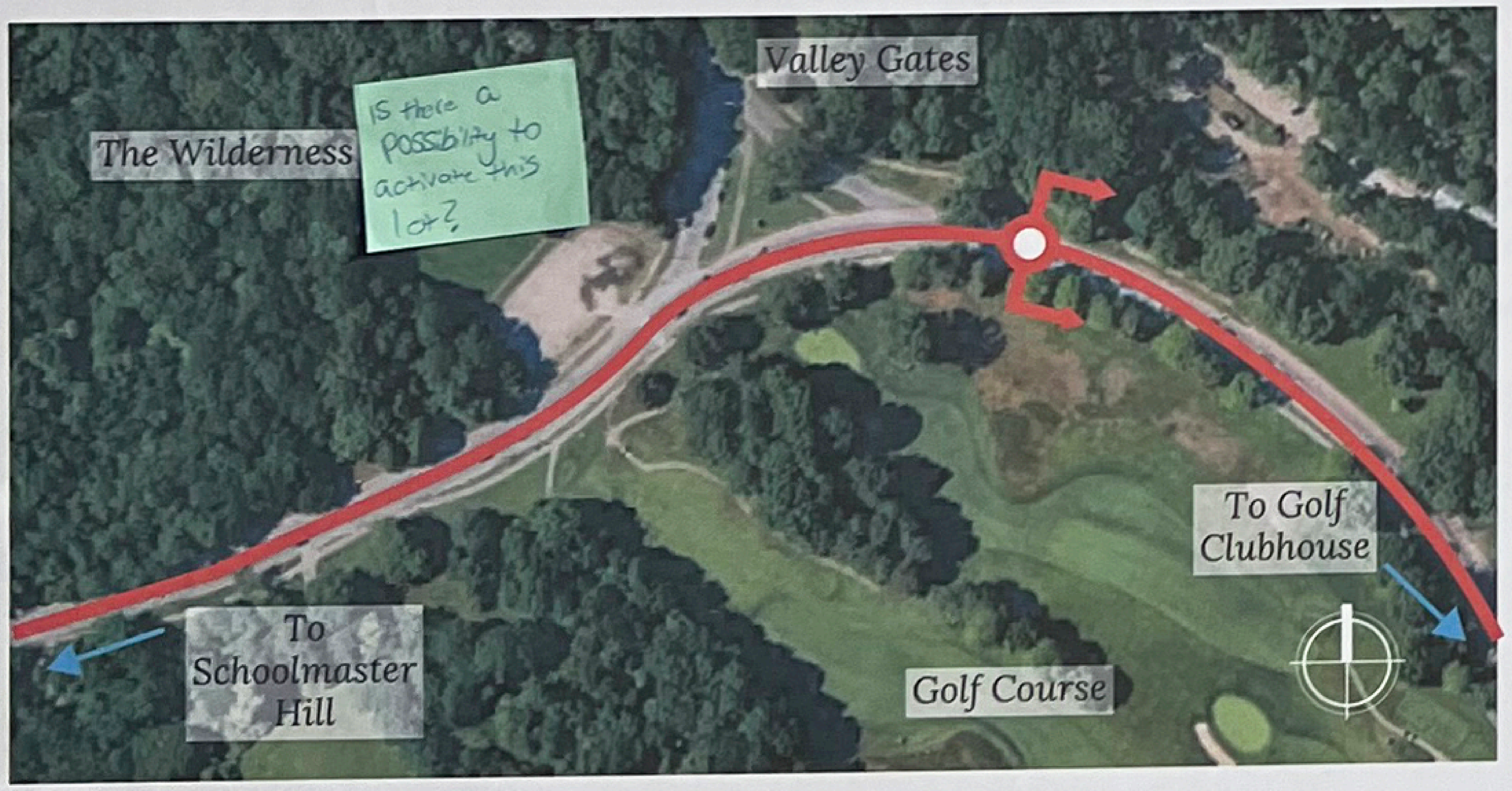

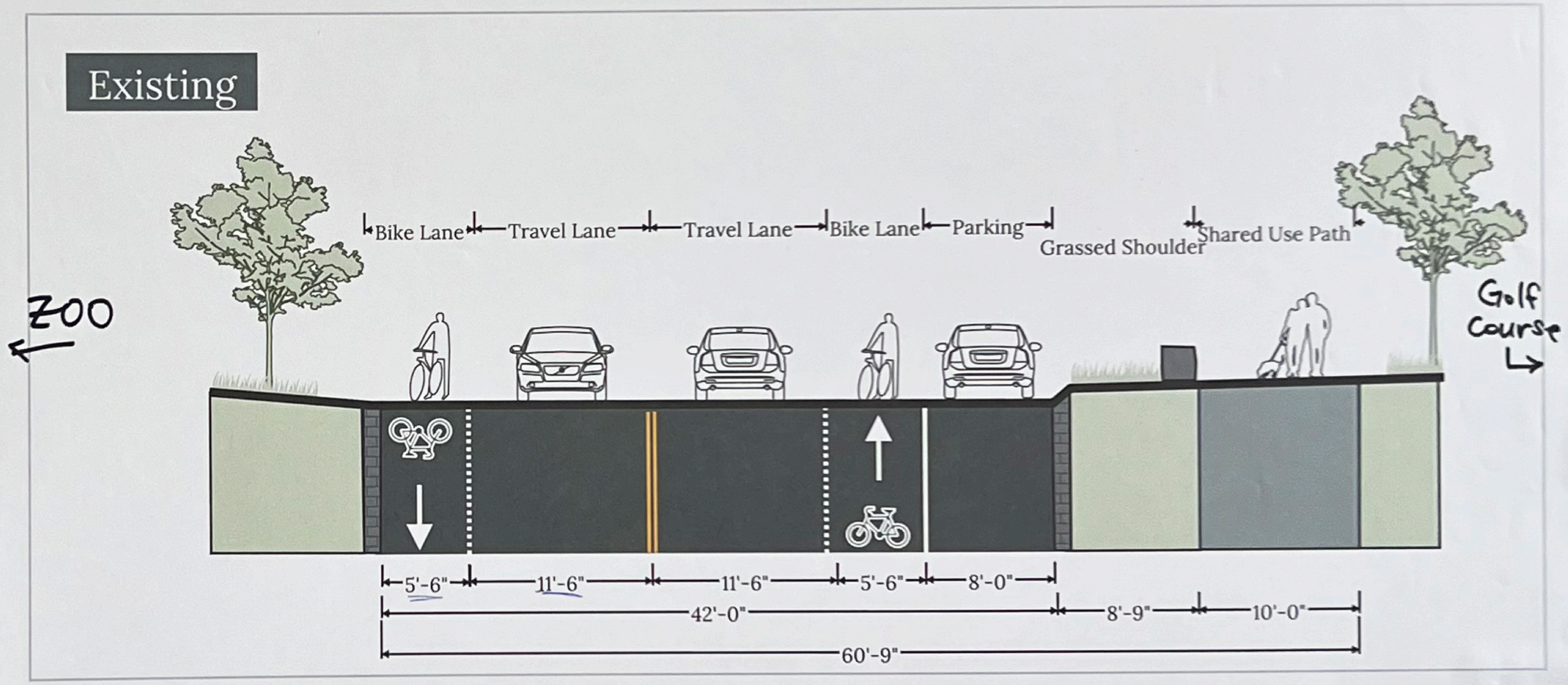

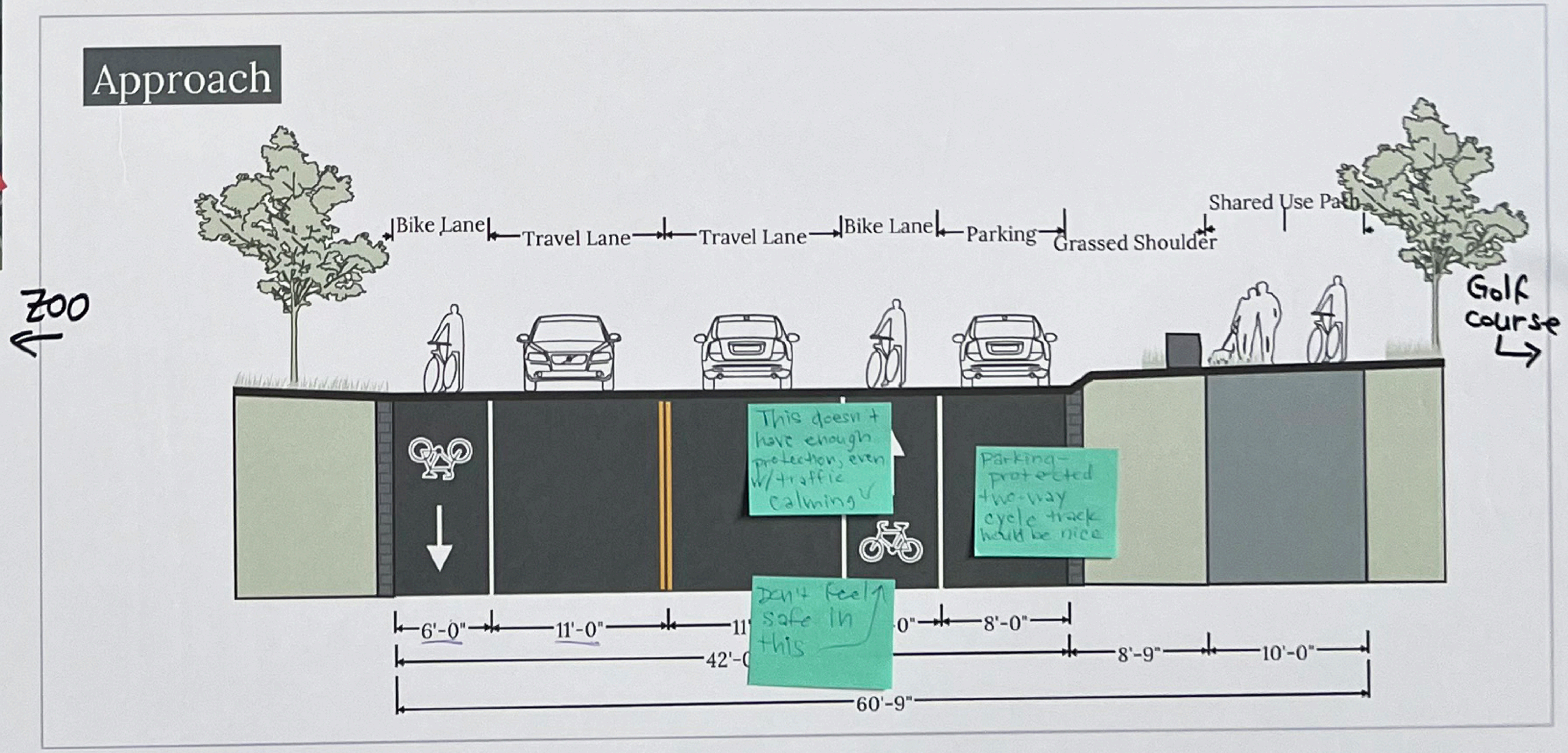

Narrow lanes at cross walks? Would MBTA be okay

Raised crosswalks would be ideal

Parking protected ~~lane~~ bike lane would be nice ✓

How can we protect bike lane during events? ✓

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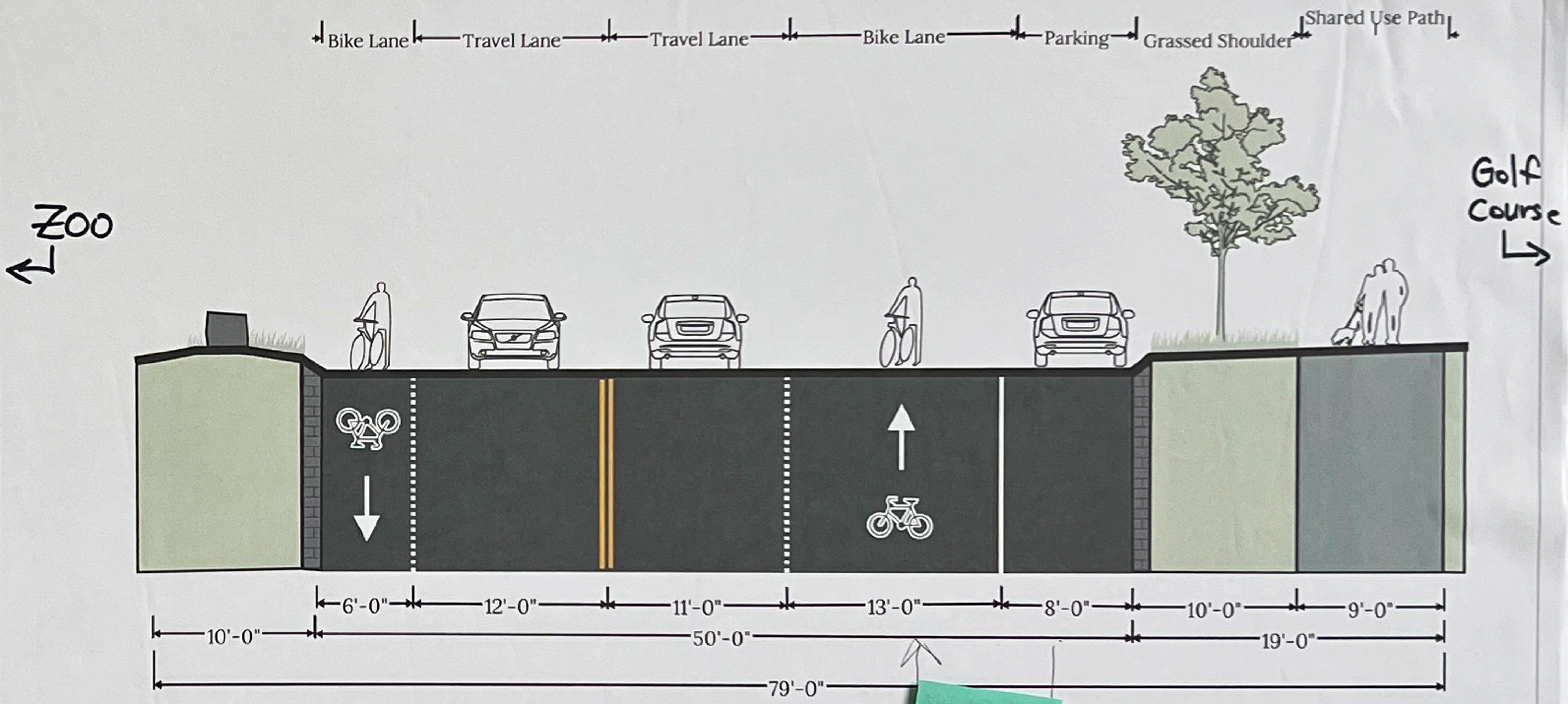
LOCATION 4 - GOLF COURSE

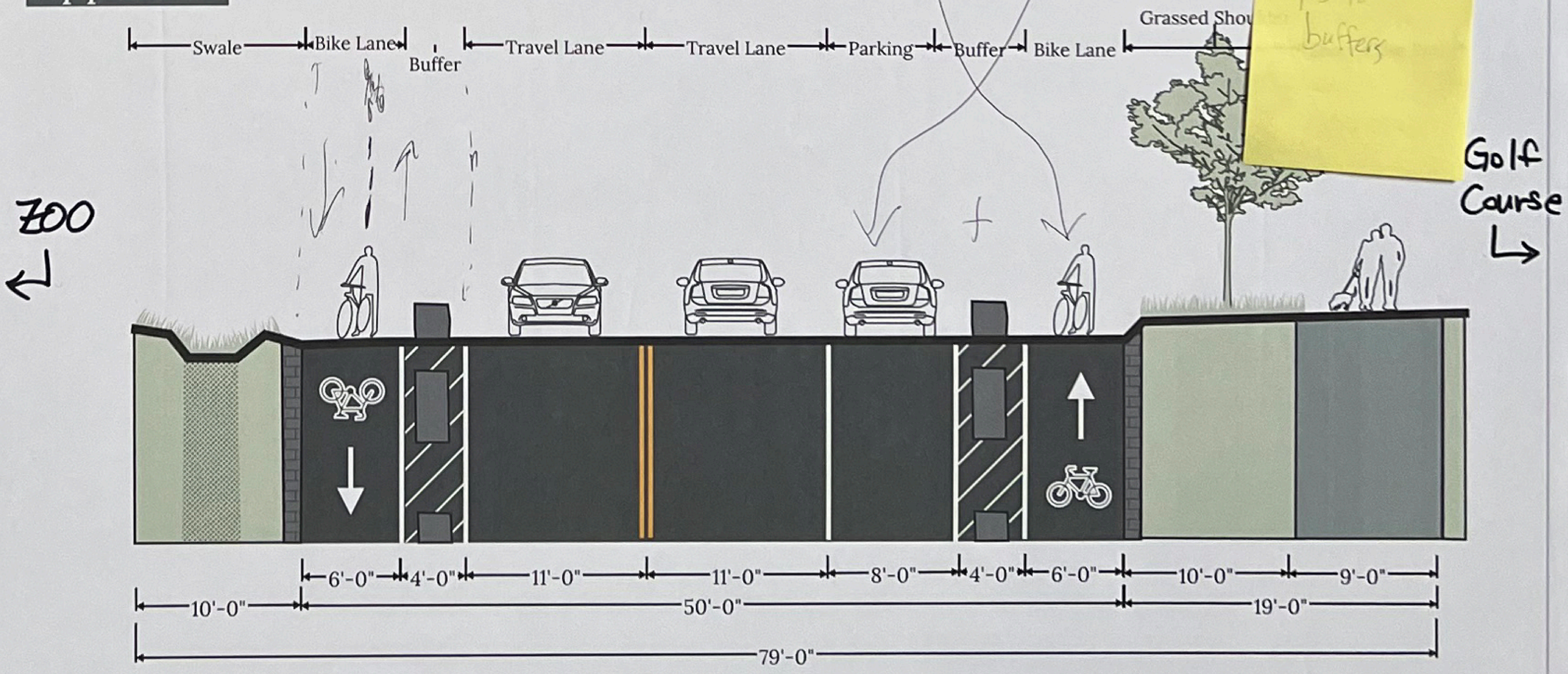
physically narrowing would be good

slow drivers down here

Existing



Approach



Yes to buffers

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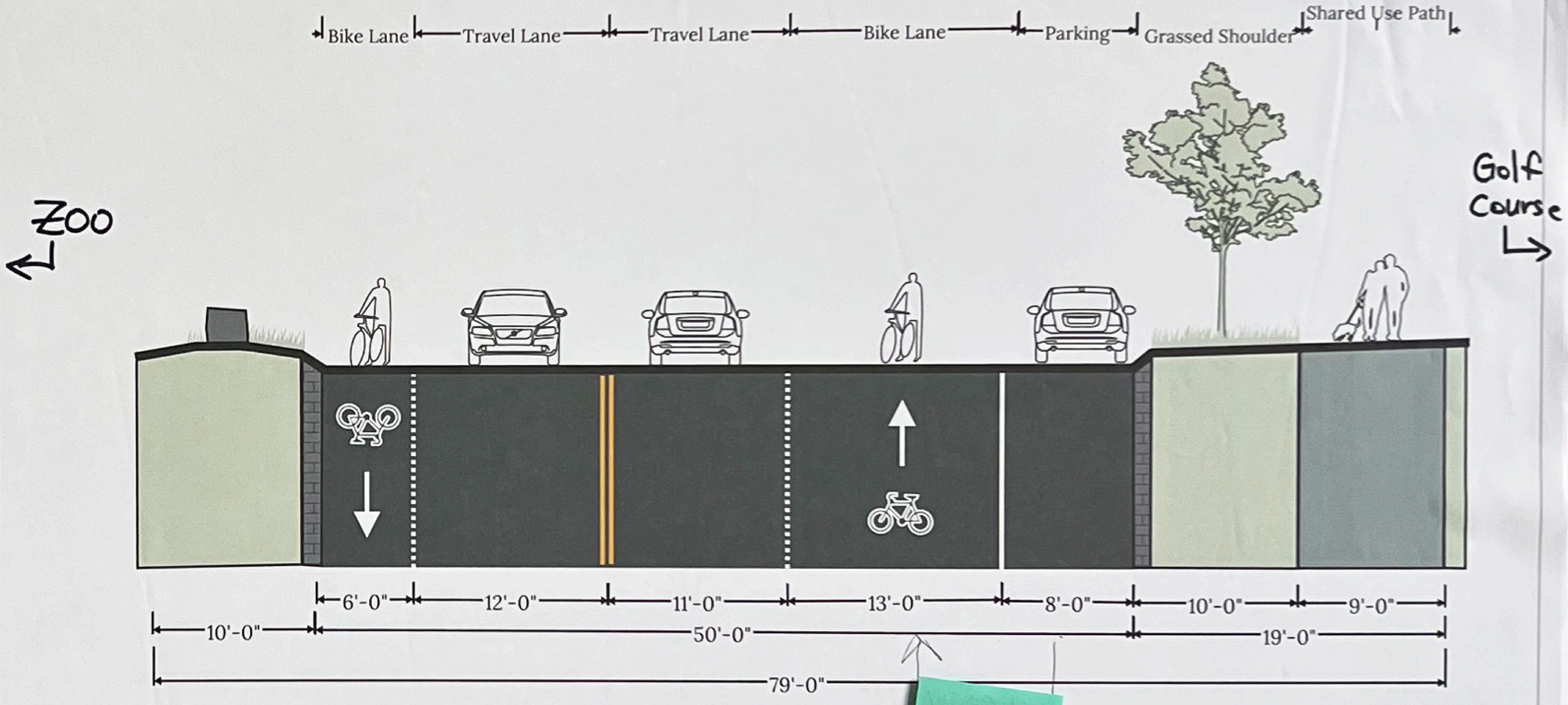
Existing



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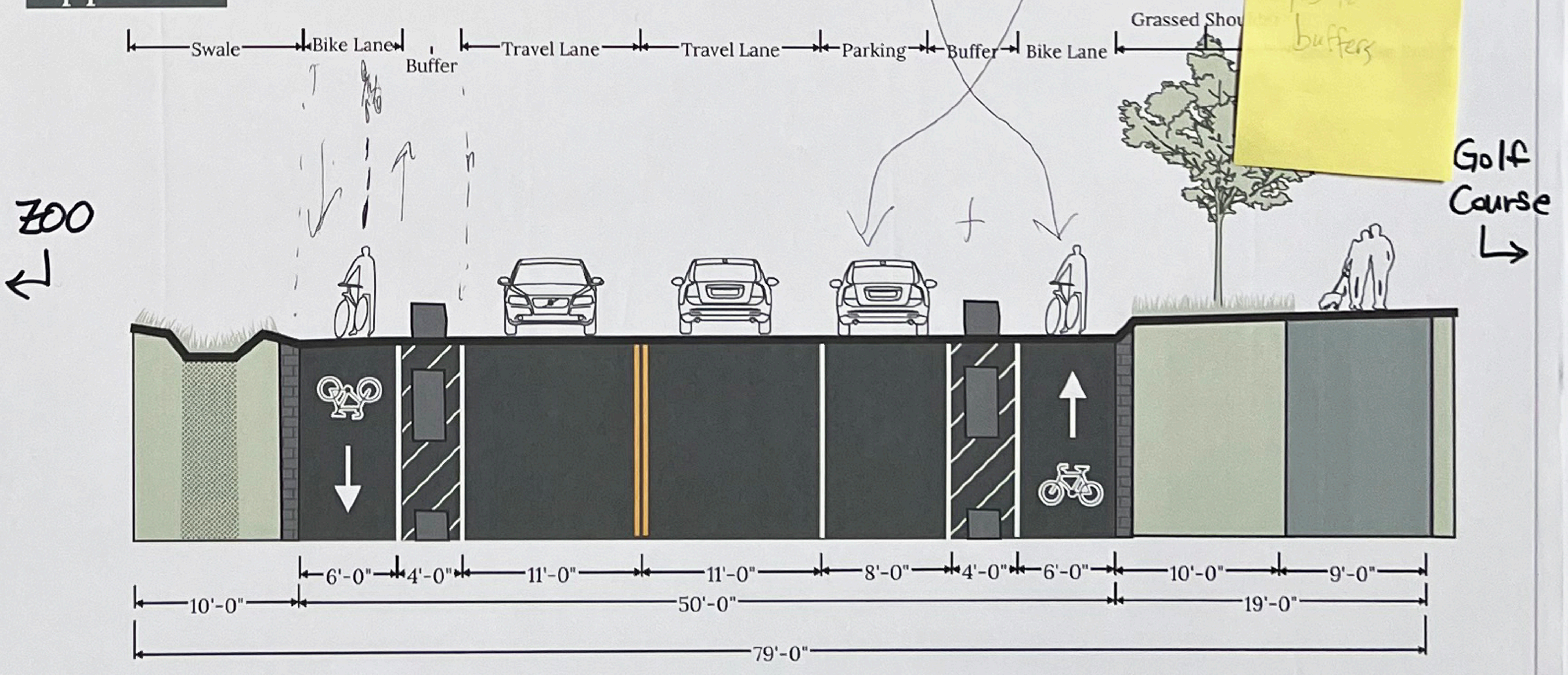

Yes to buffers

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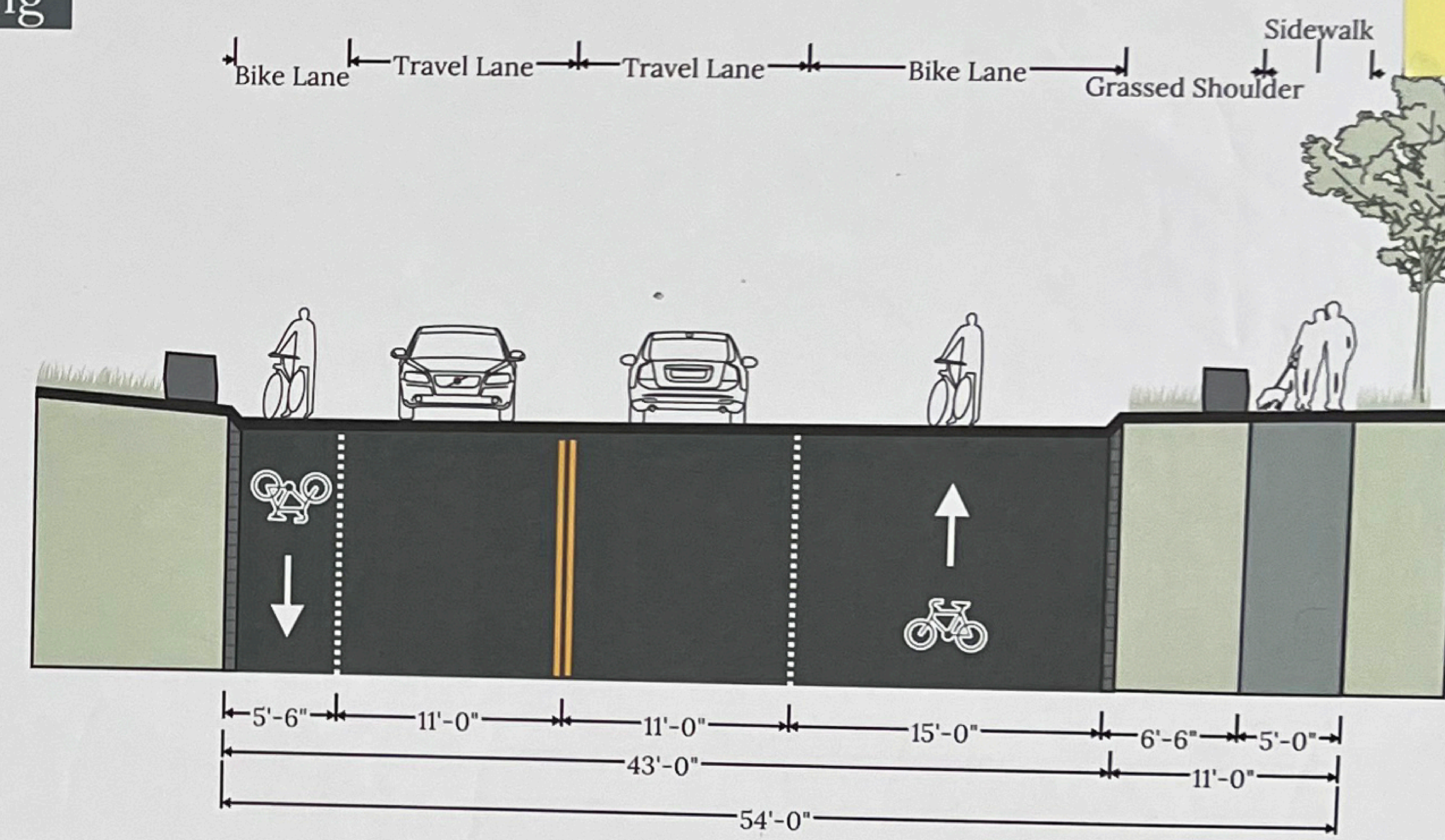
LOCATION 5 - PEABODY CIRCLE AREA

Reflectory Hill

Existing

ZOO

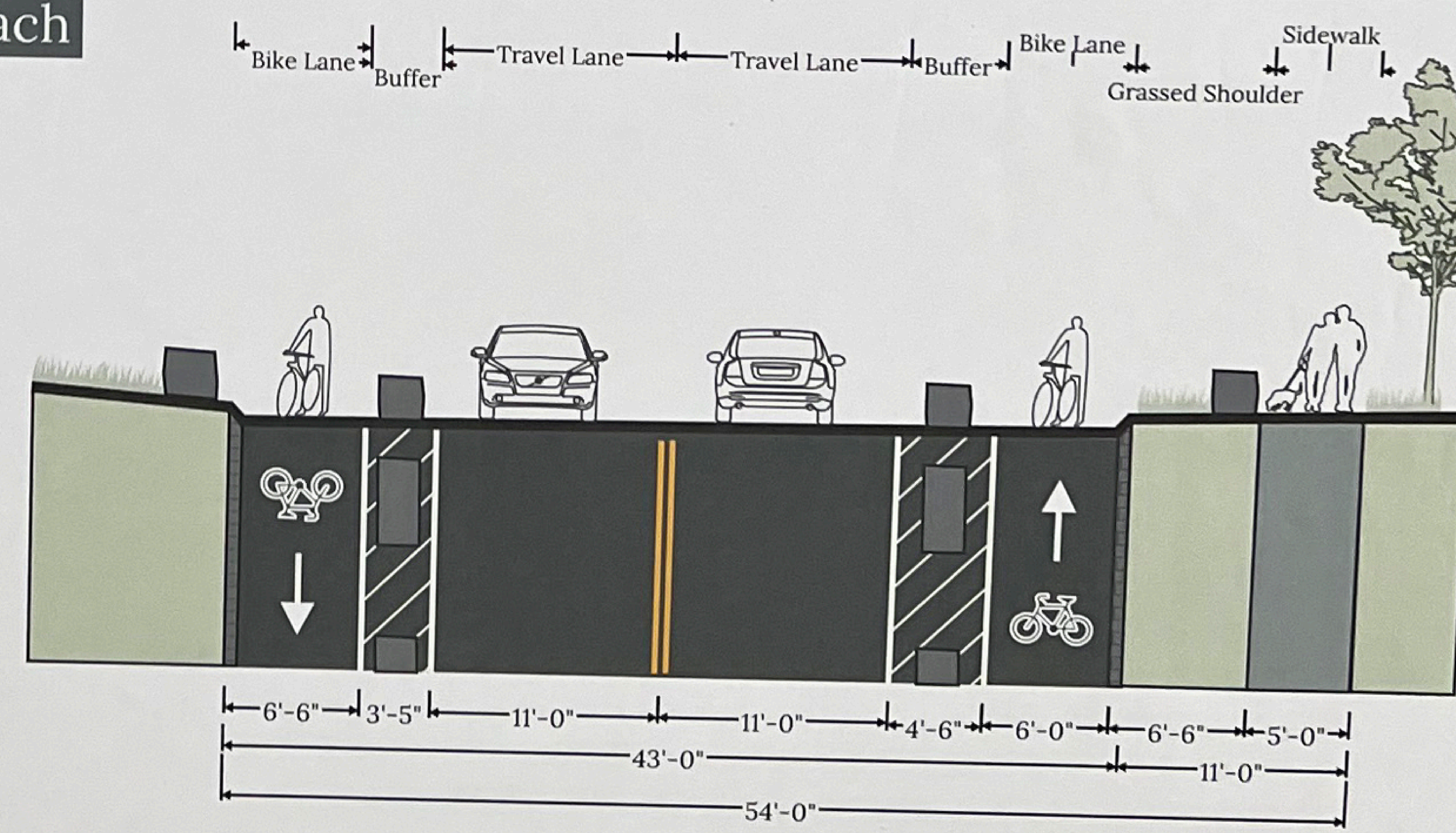


GOLF

Approach

GOLF

ZOO



Yes please
physical barriers
btwn motor
vehicles and
bikes here

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